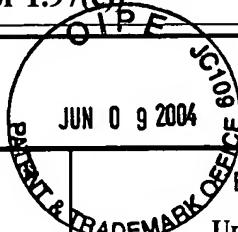


*BFA*

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
17280

In Re Application Of: Koji Yamaya, et al.



|            |                   |            |                |
|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Serial No. | Filing Date       | Examiner   | Group Art Unit |
| 10/721,518 | November 24, 2003 | Unassigned | 3739           |

Title: ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS

Address to:  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

**37 CFR 1.97(c)**

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:

the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

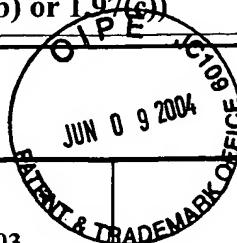
**OR**

the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
 (Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
 17280

In Re Application: Koji Yamaya, et al.



Serial No.  
 10/721,518

Filing Date  
 November 24, 2003

Examiner  
 Unassigned

Group Art Unit  
 3739

**ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS**

**Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-1013/SSMP as described below.

Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
 Thomas Spinelli  
 Signature

Dated: June 7, 2004

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No. 39,533

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400 Garden City Plaza

Garden City, NY 11530

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TS:jap

CC:



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Koji Yamaya, et al.

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No.:** 10/721,518

**Art Unit:** 3739

**Filed:** November 24, 2003

**Docket:** 17280

**For:** ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS

**Dated:** June 7, 2004

**Conf. No.:** 5316

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

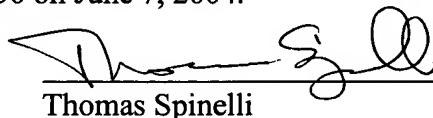
1. United States Patent No. 6,458,074 B1, issued to Matsui, et al., dated October 1, 2002;
2. United States Patent No. 6,071,233, issued to Ishikawa, et al., dated June 6, 2000;

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 7, 2004.

Dated: June 7, 2004



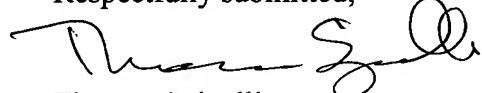
Thomas Spinelli

3. United States Patent No. 4,436,087, issued to Ouchi, dated March 13, 1984;
4. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0040657 A1, issued to Yamaya, et al., dated February 27, 2003; and
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 3-275028, dated December 5, 1991, together with English-language Abstract.

The references were cited in a Search Report dated March 15, 2004 received from the European Patent Office. Applicants are submitting a copy of Reference No. 5, together with a copy of the Search Report. In accordance with the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003, applicants are not required to submit copies of the above-cited U.S. Patent references. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the Search Report.

Further, the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

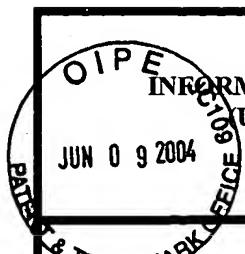
Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli  
Registration No. 39,533

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400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

TS:jap



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

JUN 09 2004

Docket Number (Optional)  
17280

Application Number  
10/721,518

Applicant(s)  
Koji Yamaya, et al.

Filing Date  
November 24, 2003

Group Art Unit  
3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | NAME             | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
|                   |     | 6,458,074 B1    | 10/1/2002 | Matsui et al.    |       |          |                            |
|                   |     | 6,071,233       | 6/6/2000  | Ishikawa, et al. |       |          |                            |
|                   |     | 4,436,087       | 3/13/1984 | Ouchi            |       |          |                            |
|                   |     | 2003/0040657 A1 | 2/27/2003 | Yamaya, et al.   |       |          |                            |
|                   |     |                 |           |                  |       |          |                            |
|                   |     |                 |           |                  |       |          |                            |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--|-----|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  |     | 3-275028        | 12/5/1991 | Japan   |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.